

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-51 (canceled)

Claim 52 (new): A transgenic plant comprising a recombinant polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide that is at least 85% identical to SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 53 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 52, wherein the polypeptide is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 54 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 52, wherein the polypeptide is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 55 (new): The transgenic plant of Claim 52, wherein the recombinant polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claim 56 (new): The transgenic plant of Claim 52, wherein the polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 57 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 52, wherein the polypeptide binds to a DNA regulatory sequence.

Claim 58 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 52, wherein the polypeptide is overexpressed and confers to the transgenic plant greater tolerance to osmotic stress, salt and/or water deprivation as compared to a control plant.

Claim 59 (new): The transgenic plant of Claim 52, wherein the transgenic plant is more tolerant to 9.4% sucrose or 150 mM NaCl than the control plant.

Claim 60 (new): The transgenic plant of Claim 52, wherein the recombinant polynucleotide comprises a constitutive, inducible, or tissue-specific promoter that regulates expression of the polypeptide.

Claim 61 (new): A transgenic seed produced from the transgenic plant of Claim 52.

Claim 62 (new): A transgenic plant comprising a recombinant polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide that is at least 85% identical to SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein expression of the polypeptide confers to the transgenic plant greater tolerance to osmotic stress, salt and/or water deprivation than the tolerance of a control plant.

Claim 63 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 62, wherein the polypeptide is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 64 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 62, wherein the polypeptide is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 65 (new): The transgenic plant of Claim 62, wherein the recombinant polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claim 66 (new): The transgenic plant of Claim 62, wherein the polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 67 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 62, wherein the polypeptide binds to a DNA regulatory sequence.

Claim 68 (new): The transgenic plant of Claim 62, wherein the transgenic plant is more tolerant to 9.4% sucrose or 150 mM NaCl than the control plant.

Claim 69 (new): The transgenic plant of Claim 62, wherein the recombinant polynucleotide comprises a constitutive, inducible, or tissue-specific promoter that regulates expression of the polypeptide.

Claim 70 (new): A transgenic seed produced from the transgenic plant of Claim 62.